

SRI : A women farmer with a challenging move

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, a middle-aged woman farmer owning a little over four acres at Vikravandi in Villupuram district, has suddenly become the celebrity of that area. The reason behind it is that the crop raised by her recently stood out from others. In the past few months, many farmers visited her field with an astonishing look and willing to know the “secret.” System Rice Intensification, or SRI, is her answer. Apart from the farmers, her field was frequently visited by scientist of TNAU, government officials and district collector.



Mrs. Vijayalakshmi during the test harvest in front of Project Director, District Collector, Vice Chancellor and TNAU committee members

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi was the first (woman) farmer who came forward and co-operated with the officials of TNAU to adopt SRI in four acres. Some farmers who were skeptical about SRI in the village called her mad for attempting SRI method. Raising mat nursery with a seed rate of 3 kg/ha was the initial attempt of the woman farmer. As an innovative idea instead of raising nursery in polythene sheet, banana leaves were used. Later 14 days young and single seedling was transplanted with a spacing of 22.5 X 22.5 cm. Alternate wetting and drying method of irrigation was practiced by the woman farmer. Weeds were controlled using cono weeder. As the days went, crop growth in terms of profuse tillering has diverted the attention of the local farmers, who visited the field with astonishing look. Heavy tillering with a maximum of about 110 tillers was recorded. She has harvested a high yield of about 7.36t / ha under varahanadhi sub basin.

Contact details: Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Vikravandi block, Villupuram district, Tamilnadu- 605 602.
Mobile: 9790238445.

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